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RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 CAIRO 000814

SIPDIS

FOR NEA, NEA/ELA AND DRL/NESCA

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/13/2029
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PHUM](#) [KDEM](#) [KIRF](#) [EG](#)
SUBJECT: NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
CRITICIZES GOE, OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: A. CAIRO 79
[1B.](#) 08 CAIRO 2152
[1C.](#) 08 CAIRO 2122

Classified By: Ambassador Margaret Scobey for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. KEY POINTS:

- (U) The quasi-governmental organization, the National Council for Human Rights (NCHR), released its 2008 human rights report on May 6, criti
- (U) The report criticizes the GOE for human rights violations such as restricting NGOs, continuing the emergency law and reacting violently
- (U) The most prominent of the 25 recommendations focus on ending the emergency law, combating torture, abolishing prison sentences as penalt
- (C) Civil society contacts criticized the report for failing to fault the GOE for not implementing the NCHR's previous recommendations and f

[1](#)2. (C) Comment: Founded in 2003, the National Council for Human Rights is a quasi-governmental organization dominated by GOE insiders. Forme
tension. The most prominent recommendations are substantive
and include many of the issues that human rights activists focus on. We believe that citing these NCHR recommendations could give the USG leve

[1](#)3. (U) The NCHR report, covering 2008 and the first quarter of 2009, criticizes the GOE for restricting NGO and professional syndicates, "cons
The report notes the GOE's "violent" reaction to the April 2008 Mahalla strike. The National Council also calls attention to the "economic and

[1](#)4. (C) The report also characterizes some developments over the year as positive, such as open criticism of government policies on Egyptian sa
also welcomes prison sentences against police officers convicted of torture.

[1](#)5. (C) The report offers 25 recommendations, the most prominent of which are noted below. All of these prominent recommendations have appeare
the first publication in 2005.

- The Emergency Law: Calling for ending the emergency law in favor of an anti-terrorism law, and "demanding" that the emergency law be applied
- Torture: Broadening the definition of torture and increasing the penalties. (Comment: Currently, the law defines torture only in the conte
- Prison for Journalists: Calling on President Mubarak to fulfill his pledge to amend the penal code by abolishing prison terms as penalties f
- NGO Restrictions: Removing legal restrictions on NGOs. (Comment: Under the existing NGO law, the GOE is able to

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shut down NGOs, limit their activities and refuse to register them, and often utilizes these prerogatives. End comment.)

--Political Parties: Lifting the restrictions on the formation of new parties. (Comment: Currently, aspiring political parties need the pern
uses, over its potential political competition. End comment.)

Civil Society Largely Disappointed

[1](#)6. (C) XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX told us that although he agrees with all of the recommendations, he doubts that the GOE will implement them. XXXXXXXX
SCOBEY